

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, UR, NO

SUBJ: U.S. YACHT "NORDSTJERNEN"

REF: OSLO 3310

NORWEGIAN MEDIA JULY 7 ATTEMPT TO CAST DOUBT ON SOVIET REPORTS THAT WALTER LEVERING'S YACHT IS IN DANGER DUE TO ICE CONDITIONS. WHILE REPORTING MESSAGE BEING BROADCAST BY VARDØ RADIO, TWO PAPERS--AFTENPOSTEN IN OSLO AND NORDLYS IN TROMSØ--ALSO INDICATE THAT THERE IS LITTLE ICE IN THE VAYGACH ISLAND AREA WHERE MR. LEVERING IS THOUGHT TO BE.

SAID AFTENPOSTEN: "THE NORTH NORWAY WEATHER SERVICE IN TROMSØ INDICATES THAT SATELLITE PICTURES SHOW THE SITUATION IN THE AREA TO BE VERY GOOD. THERE IS VERY LITTLE ICE." AND NORDLYS, IN A SIMILAR REPORT BQSED ON WEATHER SERVICES, SAID "THE ICE IS NOT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT, AND TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN BETWEEN TWENTY AND THIRTY DEGREES CENTIGRADE."

AFTENPOSTEN SAYS THE VARDØ RADIO MESSAGE IS BEING SENT OUT ON A MEDIUM WAVE, BUT IT ADDS, THAT NORDSTJERNEN HAS NEITHER SHORT-WAVE NOR MEDIUM-WAVE RADIO RECEIVERS ABOARD. THE NORWEGIAN MARITIME DIRECTORATE, HOWEVER, HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT MR. LEVERING

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HAS AN INTERMEDIATE FREQUENCY TRANSMITTER AND A

VHF RADIO.

AFTENPOSTEN ALSO REPORTS THAT MR. LEVERING DID NOT HAVE PERMISSION TO SAIL THROUGH SOVIET TERRITORY.

"MR. LEVERING WAS IN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON BOTH LAST YEAR AND THIS YEAR," THE PAPER SAYS, AND WAS PROMISED THAT AUTHORITIES WOULD CONSIDER THE REQUEST (FOR PERMISSION), BUT SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO ANSWER." THE PAPER ALSO SAYS HE OFFERED TO TAKE ONE OR TWO RUSSIANS ALONG AS CREW MEMBERS.

ANDERS

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